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TO BE ENTITLED,

THE FRANKLIN MINERVA;

Calculated to gratify the lovers of ANECDOTE, BIOGRAPHY, HISTORY, MORALITY and SENTIMENT.

CONDITIONS:

I. This publication shall appear every other Saturday, on a fine royal paper, and each number shall contain four quarto pages.

II. At the close of the year a complete INDEX, and a TITLE PAGE, will be given.

III. The annual price will be ONE DOLLAR; to be paid half yearly, viz. HALF A DOLLAR on delivery of the first number of each half year.

AS this work will be issued from Robert Harper's Printing-Office, therefore, those who are subscribers to the Franklin Repository, shall have a deduction of one-fourth of a Dollar, on the subscription to the MINERVA.

If, upon the receipt of either of the two first numbers, any one shall deem the MINERVA unworthy of his patronage, such person may, by returning the papers, unsullied, have his money refunded, without ANY deduction.

As it is presumed that some subscribers to the MINERVA, may wish to have it left, for them, at some more convenient place than the Printing-Office, it is intended to be forwarded to such other places as they may direct, in the circuit rode by either of Robert Harper's post-riders, at one-fourth of a dollar per annum.

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...are of little weight with the enlightened part of the community, he thinks it most advisable to wave the usual practice, and offer this (the first number) as a plan of, and introduction to, his future performances.

Should the publication, however, at any time fall short of the expectation of its patrons, and improvements be thought necessary in the plan, he will thankfully receive such advice, and if in his power, most chearfully concur.

In the prosecution of this publication, the EDITOR most earnestly solicits the aid of literary gentlemen. Their leisure hours might be spent agreeably in penning or selecting productions which might be of advantage to the community.

It is the design of the Editor to record the MARRIAGES and DEATHS, which may take place in this, or the adjacent counties. For those occurrences, he must depend upon his correspondents—It will be necessary, in that case, for them to forward their names, that the Editor may know to whom he is indebted for, and upon whose authority he states, such information. The *name* of the person communicating such information will not be disclosed, except in the case of misstatement.

February 2, 1799.

ORATION *in praise of* DELIBERATE BATCHELORS.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

IT must, I am apprehensive, prove painful to you to hear so many complaints of diffidence and inexperience, and so much pleading for compassion and indulgence, in the young orators who address you on this occasion. For my part, though I am not less dissident in reality, nor less solicitous for your approbation, than the rest of my co-panions, yet I shall spare your feelings in these respects, and, without further introduction or apology, proceed to my subject.

...re two ways of promot...g the ge-
of virtue or good manners a-
...of which, in skilful
...ith good effect,
...e direct method,
...ost engaging and
...iews, the particu-
...ould recommend;
...method, by de-
...nity, the opposite

...would, at present,
...our good opinion,

...ment,
...Agood,
...seldom found a
...deliberate batchelor,
...semblage of virtues:

I. He bears disappointments with fortitude. Does a lady refuse his addresses—he is not driven, with the impetuous inconsiderate youth, to the pistol, precipice, or halter, for relief—he knows that time will cure all these ills; looks out, at leisure, for some other fair, who may prove more propitious and in the mean time, derives abundant consolation from the many unhappy matches which fall under his observation, and of which he is no idle, or inattentive spectator.

II. He does nothing rashly—The happiness of the married state, he justly considers as a matter, both of the greatest moment and uncertainty. Having, therefore, no fixed principles on which to found his prospects in this respect, he calls in to his aid, the experience of others, who have made the trial; and agreeably to the principles of the true Newtonian philosophy, reasons from induction; ever paying due regard to these golden lines, in a famous classic author—

"Rashness and haste make all things insecure:
"All great concernments must delay endure;
(and what greater than matrimony!)
"Think on the means, the manner and the end,
"When any great affair thou dost intend,
"And if uncertain thy pretensions be
(and who can pretend to certainty in the lottery of love?)
"Stay till fit time ware out uncertainty."

III. He looks beyond the present moment,
...t
"Like the wild heard of nymphs and swains,
"Who thoughtless fly into the chains,"
without considering the consequences—The concerns of a family are, in his estimation, justly considered as weighty concerns. After the example of the wise man, he sits down first and counts the cost; and then regulates his conduct accordingly. If he finds his present circumstances inadequate to the probable expences of a family, he will prudently wait till better circumstances may enable him to undertake that charge; for he knows very well, what I hope, ladies, none of you may ever experience, that "when poverty comes in at the door, love flies out at the windows."

IV. He possesses one of the most sublime, and, in other...s, the most difficult of human

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...ing to be
...nder then the
...ate income, w...
...pence of supporting, ...rank, a ...
has been indulged in all the extravagancies of gay life, though, perhaps, neither in family nor fortune his ſuperior, is deterred from forming the connexion, and conſtrained to ſubmit to the leſſer evils of a ſingle life.

If therefore celibacy be thought an evil, and perhaps it is peculiarly ſo, in a country like this, the only radical cure lies with the ladies—Let them but once convince the men, from their frugality and economy, that it would be, in every ſenſe of the word, their intereſt to marry, and they will immediately, and joyfully, obey the voice of nature, and cloſe the happy union.

On MISFORTUNES.

WHEN poverty ſtares any perſon in the face, his mind is continually caſting about how he ſhall avoid the impending evil. Hope, that "ſweet delec...ill," is ever employed in feeding the flo... imagination with ideas of better times, b... ries of diſappointments diſſipates the vapory proſpects, and chaſes the wretched ſoul. Alonzo was a young gentleman whom fortune ſeems to have made her tennis-ball, caſt upon the inhoſpitable world, which goads the mind with ironical commiſeration, expreſſes pity which it never feels, and adds to the miſery of every hapleſs wretch that depends on its aſſiſtance, he paſſed his time in a gloomy ſeclusion from every ſocial joy.—When the evening ſhades ſhut out the beams of day, penſive and ſolitary he would rove from one part of the city to the other, without money, and conſequently without friends, a thouſand melancholy ideas crouded upon his mind, heightened in their dark aſpect by the ſurrounding ſhades of night. He retires to reſt, but buſy fancy will be at work; his dreams, ho... ...ommerical and romantic! Buſineſs, fortune, and friends preſent themſelves to his view; his heart dilates with gratitude and pleaſure, but the returning dawn involves him in diſ...ppointment and chagrin. Aga...thon met this unhappy youth one ... taking his uſual tour.—Wh... jected, Alonzo? ... better times are ... long flow into your ... friend? I will aſſi... But ah how little do w... words are cheap, and ... Alonzo received from ...

Whoe'er upon ...
Will ſeldom m...

...reul which was too ...
the ſtorm of his diſtreſs—he made ... efforts to calm the tempeſt, but in vain—relief from every quarter ſeemed to fail—and thus he reaſoned himſelf into the arms of death—"Providence frowns upon me, ... crimes deſerve the expreſſion of divine anger, but gentle mercy is an attribute of the Deity, it is my duty to acquieſce, but I know I cannot ſupport my exiſtence under this heavy load—I am therefore reſigned to my deſtiny, ſince Providence cloſes this medium to convey me to the grave—farewel vain world—farewel my deluding proſpects—adieu ye diſſolving connexions of nature and friendſhip—ye were pleaſing for a time, but the joys of mortal life are all vaniſhed—I go to a happier ſtate, and more refined pleaſures." Hapleſs Alonzo! unfortunate youth! thus to cut ſhort the thread of life, by the means of thoſe diſpenſations which properly improved would have brightened thy days, and ... thy life ſmi... with ...

A ſhort Diſſertation on Love and Beauty.

THERE is nothing more generally believed by all to be known, and leſs underſtood in fact, than love. As plants receive a tincture from the ſoil on which they grow, ſo love too often receives a ſtrong colouring from the temper of the lover. Hence that variety which we ſee in the theatre of the world. The platonic and the ſenſual; the jealous and indifferent; the conſtant and roving; the over warm and too cool; the diſintereſted that has the happineſs of the object beloved in view; and the intereſted that only conſults his own.

The true and only object of love is beauty. He, therefore (and only he) that can raiſe beauty, can feel love. But there are two kinds of beauty, (mental and corporal; whence love of ... reſult ...